

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MISSOURI DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL



The MISSION of the Division of Fire Safety is to provide fire and life safety enforcement and education to all citizens so they receive the highest quality of services to ensure safety and a sense of well being.

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The Office of the Missouri State Fire Marshal was created in 1972 by the 76th General Assembly and was transferred to the Department of Public Safety by the Omnibus State Reorganization Act of 1974. The State Fire Marshal's Office became known as the Missouri Division of Fire Safety in 1985.

Responsibilities of the Division include:

Fire Safety Inspections - Providing fire safety standards by inspecting facilities licensed by the Department of Health, Department of Mental Health and Division of Family Services;

Fire Investigations - Investigating fires and explosions;

Fireworks Licensing - Regulating the sale and use of fireworks and licensure of operators responsible for pyrotechnic displays;

Fire Fighter Training - Provide in-depth training for emergency response personnel in areas including hazardous materials awareness and operations, certification of firefighters, fire investigation, fire inspection, fire officers, fire instructors and driver operators;

National Fire Incident Reporting - Operation of the state-wide fire incident reporting system;

Boiler & Pressure Vessels Inspections - Inspection and issuance of operating permits for boilers, hot water heaters and pressure vessels;

Elevator Safety - Inspection and issuance of state operating certificates for elevators and escalators;

Amusement Ride Safety - Inspection and issuance of operating permits for amusement rides operating in the state of Missouri.

Private Fire Investigator Licensing - Evaluation and issuance of practicing licenses for private fire investigators doing business in the State of Missouri

FIRE INVESTIGATION



The Investigation Unit provides fire and explosive related investigative services to Missouri's fire services and law enforcement agencies. Sixteen field Fire Investigators and two supervisors are located strategically throughout the state and are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Under

RSMo. 320.230, the State Fire Marshal and his appointed investigators are responsible for investigating incidents involving the possibility of arson, explosion, or related offenses as requested by the fire service, law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys within the state. Division Investigators process an average of 1400 scenes annually

Investigators with the Division of Fire Safety have an excess of 750 hours of training including POST certification, Division of Fire Safety State Fire Investigator Certification, National Fire Academy training and various Federal Law Enforcement Academy training. Investigators are trained in several fields of expertise to include insurance fraud, explosive recognition, weapons of mass destruction, and post-blast investigations. Investigators also have advanced training in clandestine drug lab investigations.

Fire Investigators have the power of arrest for criminal offenses, when investigating the cause, origin or circumstances of fires, explosions, or like occurrences involving the possibility of arson or related offenses. Investigators also have arrest powers when aiding and assisting the Sheriff of any county or the Chief of Police of any municipality or their designated representative at their request. Additionally, Investigators are assigned special details when activated for Homeland Security or Statewide Mutual Aid occurrences.

The Investigation Unit has six certified Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) operators who also assist federal, state, local government when requested. The program also utilizes two accelerant-detection and two explosive-detection K-9 teams. The explosive detection teams are the only units of their kind available statewide.

FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT

The Division of Fire Safety, Investigation Unit, is charged with enforcing RSMo 320.106, the investigation and permitting of the fireworks industry in the State of Missouri. This statute requires prospective fireworks vendors and persons requesting special fireworks displays to apply to the Division of Fire Safety for an annual permit to do business in Missouri. The scope of this program was broadened during the 2004 legislative session by the passage of SB1196. This bill adds to the Division's duties the testing and licensing of those individuals who shoot fireworks for public display. Additionally, proximate (indoor) fireworks shows, such as those used in theatres, ballgames, and concerts, were previously exempt from the law and therefore left unregulated are now regulated due to this bill. The program will generate approximately \$150,000 which will be deposited to the credit of the Fire Education Fund (0821).

The Division is responsible for the inspection of Missouri's fireworks industry to ensure adequate fire safety measures are in place to protect the public as they patronize locations where fireworks are offered for sale. Investigators and Inspectors are trained in the identification of illegal fireworks and explosives as well as the proper handling procedures. Each fireworks season approximately 500 inspections related to the wholesale and retail sales of fireworks and inspections for locations having pyrotechnic displays for public view are conducted.

PRIVATE FIRE INVESTIGATOR LICENSURE

In the 2004 legislation session, House Bill 1195 was passed creating the Licensed Private Fire Investigator program. This newly created program will allow for better oversight of individuals performing fire investigations for a fee in the State of Missouri. This legislation will allow the Division, and the new Board of Licensed Private Fire Investigators, the authorization to license only qualified individuals. It will also allow for the ongoing monitoring of their performance to ensure ethical work practices, the investigation of any violations that may arise from their practice, and the implementation of any necessary measures against these individuals or organizations.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Missouri Revised Statute 320.202 mandates the Division as the state-wide agency “responsible for the training of fire fighters, investigators, and any other state employees performing fire inspections”.



The Training and Certification Unit provides quality training and internationally accepted certification to firefighters, law enforcement personnel, emergency response professionals and other state agencies. The training unit is also responsible for the Fire Fighter Training Contracts, National Fire Incident Reporting System, the State Fire Mutual Aid System, and Fire Department Registration.

When appropriated, the Division provides funding for cost-free training for all of the state’s fire fighters and emergency response personnel.

In April 1996, The Division of Fire Safety obtained international accreditation for several of our training and certification programs through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. This allows Missouri fire fighters to be recognized for their training worldwide. Because accreditation is contingent upon compliance with the standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA), and because the standards are on a five year revision cycle, the Division’s training and certification programs must be continually reviewed and revised for currency. We currently offer 15 levels of certification and will be adding 7 additional levels within the next two years.

The number of individuals trained and tested by the Division’s Training Unit has increased 350% and the number of certifications issued has risen 275% within the last five years alone,

bringing the total number of certifications issued to over 35,000.

In addition, the Division is an approved provider of law enforcement training as recognized by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (POST). This status allows law enforcement officers to receive continuing education credits when attending training provided by the Division of Fire Safety.

NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

The Division of Fire Safety implemented the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) in the October 1999. The NFIRS objectives are clear; *Provide a reporting tool for all fire departments to use so that we may evaluate the Nation's fire problem.*

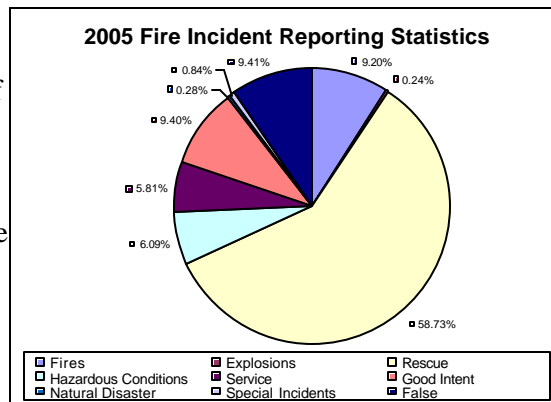
Since its adoption in the state of Missouri, this voluntary program has grown to a 74% participation rate with 678 fire departments registered in the program. In 2003, 204,539 incidents were reported. In 2004, 290,958 incidents were reported. As of May 2005, 104,200 incidents have been reported.

The U.S. Fire Administration is continually enhancing the NFIRS system to make it more useful.

The web-based Summary Output Reporting Tool has seen many new upgrades. The Bulk Import Tool has been introduced. This tool allows departments using vendor software to submit their data directly to the server, which is highly recommended by the Division.

Many outside agencies have requested fire information data from the Division for newspaper articles, statistical data on smoke detectors, etc.

We encourage fire departments who are not currently participating in NFIRS to become active in the program, in order to project an accurate profile of the fire problem in the State of Missouri.



FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Fire safety and prevention are the primary concerns of the Fire Safety Inspection Unit. The Division has a well established unit comprised of two regional chief inspectors and eleven inspectors who are strategically positioned statewide. The unit is statutorily responsible for conducting fire safety inspections of facilities/locations requiring state licensing by various state agencies to include Department of Health, Department of Mental Health, and Division of Family Services. The inspections involve licensed/religious child care, senior citizen nutrition centers, state operated mental health homes/facilities.

The unit also conducts courtesy inspections of public buildings to include county jails and public schools when requested. Each year the unit conducts approximately 12,500 fire safety inspections.



Each Division fire inspector is required to be state certified and to maintain state certification during their tenure as a fire safety inspector. In addition, each inspector is encouraged to attend cost-free fire inspector/inspection related courses through the National Fire Academy in Maryland.

Due to recent budget constraints, the Division has been forced to reduce its efforts to provide the public with vital fire prevention education and training. Educational programs designed to reduce or eliminate burn related injuries or death can be revitalized only if the Division's core GR funds are sufficient to do so.

In addition to their duties state fire inspectors also inspect fireworks venues. With the addition of the Division's responsibility relating to the amusement ride industry in 2000, fire inspectors are also utilized to verify that amusement rides operating in Missouri are in compliance with the issuance of state operating permits. Approximately 250 state operating permit verifications are made annually by the unit with this number expected to increase as the Amusement Ride program progresses.

ELEVATOR INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

During Missouri's 1994 legislative session, the General Assembly passed the Elevator Safety Act relating to elevators and elevator equipment safety. Enforcement of the legislation was placed under the jurisdiction of the Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal. Promulgated rules and regulations became effective July 1, 1999, designed to assist in administering the law. Fees generated from the inspection and testing requirements are deposited in the Elevator Safety Fund to support the program's



operation.

The law requires all elevators and elevator equipment in the state to be inspected annually and to obtain a state-operating permit. Provisions in the law include requirements for elevator and elevator equipment owners to have registered such objects with the Division of Fire Safety by July 1, 2000. In addition,

provisions in the law prohibit elevator inspectors from conducting inspections without being state licensed and possess QEI (qualified elevator inspector) certification. Municipal or political subdivision inspectors must be state licensed and possess QEI or BOCA (Building Officials Code Administrators) certification. Required inspection and testing of elevators and elevator equipment are based upon ASME A17.1, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, 1996 edition. Persons violating provisions of the Elevator Safety Act are guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

Political subdivisions may continue enforcing their local elevator safety code if such code is equal to or more stringent than the state minimum safety standards.

In FY04 the Elevator Safety Unit's database reflected over 16,000 elevators had been registered and state operating permits were issued for nearly 10,000 units. This program generated \$440,063 in revenues in FY05.

AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY

In 1997, legislation was passed creating laws pertaining to amusement ride safety. The legislation authorized the Division of Fire Safety to promulgate rules and regulations to administer the statute.

In FY2000, House Bill 1434 introduced a significant change to the current law. This change requires an amusement ride owner to provide the Division of Fire Safety with documentation verifying that the ride has successfully completed a safety inspection by a “qualified inspector”, meeting state requirements. Upon receipt of an approved safety inspection, the Division will issue an operating permit for that ride. No amusement ride will be allowed to operate in Missouri without having obtained such permit.

Another change in the law defines a “serious incident”. If three or more persons are transported to an “off-site” medical care facility for treatment of an injury related to the operation of an amusement ride, whether admitted or not, the ride owner is to immediately notify the Division. An investigation will then be initiated.

House Bill 1434 also establishes an Amusement Ride Safety Board composed of nine members appointed by the Governor. The board will assist the Division on developing safety standards, rules and regulations governing maintenance, testing, operation and inspection of amusement rides, set permit fees and to make recommendations to the state fire marshal on safety related issues.

Upon passage of this law in 1997, no additional funding has been provided to the Division of Fire Safety to administer the program. As a result, limited permit compliance oversight has been conducted.



BOILER & PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTION AND SAFETY



The Boiler and Pressure (BPV) Unit is responsible for assuring the safety of all boilers, water heaters, and pressure vessels in Missouri. The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Unit performed 16,956 inspections in 2003. State inspectors

performed approximately 27% of these inspections with the remainder made by commissioned insurance inspectors. The state statute requires inspection of the water side of all high pressure steam boilers at least annually. Steam boilers, 15 psi and less, require a water side inspection at least biennially. Water heating boilers and water heaters require external inspection at least biennially. Water heaters that have a burner or electrical element input of 200,000 Btu/hr or 57.1 Kw and less, are exempt from certificate inspections. Water heaters must not be capable of holding over 120 gallons of water to be exempt.

On November 12, 1986, the Boiler Law became mandatory. Today there is a chief inspector, four field inspectors and a clerical assistant. The inspectors are located in Springfield, Russellville, Salem and Kansas City. About 34,000 objects have been located as of December 2003.

In January of 2005, the BPV unit issued 175 "Special" inspector commissions to insurance inspectors who perform inspection on behalf of their companies. The special inspectors performed over 11,500 inspections in 2004. The state deputy inspectors performed over 4500 inspections with 803 violations noted in 2004. Most were improper installation or maintenance where safety devices were installed, improperly installed or disabled.

One of the goals in 2005 is to locate new objects that have never been inspected. Compared to other states, we feel there are over 60,000 objects that have yet to be located.

